

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

5a

DECISION

TOPIC Dan Greene Slough WMA, Clay County – Donald Morgan

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the donation of a parcel of land located five miles north of Dickens, Iowa and ten miles northeast of Spencer in Clay County. The subject tract (approximately 9.5 acres) has been appraised for \$49,000. Morgan has offered to donate the tract to the Iowa DNR.

Steve Schmidt of Schmidt Appraisal Services, Spirit Lake, Iowa submitted the appraisal. Jerry Gibson negotiated the donation.

The property consists of 5.1 acres of cropland enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and 4.4 acres of pasture exclusive of road right-of-way. The tract has excellent public access from 300th Street on the western border. DNR ownership of the tract is critical to the construction and completion of a \$275,000 shallow lake management project planned to begin now. DNR ownership of the tract will also prevent future residential construction, and provide additional upland nesting cover. The shallow-lake management construction will consist of an earthen embankment, lift station pump, and pipe. The project planning/engineering is being conducted by Ducks Unlimited.

Surveying and incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Morgan will receive the 2008, 2009 and 2010 CRP payments of \$125 per acre per year.

Attachment

Linda Hanson, Administrator
Management Services Division
October 11, 2007

Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

5b

DECISION

**TOPIC Lansing and Fish Farm Mounds Wildlife Management Areas,
Allamakee County -- INHF**

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a parcel of land located in Allamakee County. DNR managed Fish Farm Mounds and Lansing Wildlife Management Areas will connect as a result of this proposed acquisition. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) offers the 306-acre parcel for \$700,000. The appraised value is \$733,500.

D. Keith Jones, Licensed Appraiser, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Travis Baker negotiated the purchase agreement.

This property is located in northeast Allamakee County, Iowa. The small town of New Albin is located 3 1/2 miles north. The property is primarily upland timber with a steep sloping topography. Acquisition of this property, connecting Fish Farm Mounds and Lansing wildlife management areas, will create approximately five miles of contiguous DNR ownership of Mississippi River wooded bluff lands.

This tract will be managed to provide habitat for forest wildlife species including deer, turkey, ruffed grouse, and migrating and breeding neotropical songbirds. Secondary management objectives include preserving and enhancing the small (6 acres) native goat prairie as habitat for the state protected timber rattlesnake.

Funding used for this acquisition will be as follows: \$376,370 Federal Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson), \$37,000 National Wild Turkey Federation, \$143,065 State Wildlife Habitat Stamp, \$143,065 REAP License Plate, \$500 private donation (Greg Beisker). The property will remain eligible for continued payment of property taxes assessed by Allamakee County. Fencing, survey and incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Attachment

Linda Hanson, Administrator
Management Services Division
October 11, 2007

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

5c

DECISION

TOPIC

Loess Hills State Forest, Harrison County – Scott Pape

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a parcel of land located in northwestern Harrison County. Scott Pape offers this 110-acre parcel for the appraised price of \$231,000. The seller will retain the CRP payments as may be earned on 39.5 acres through 2012.

Donald Kearn, Licensed Appraiser of Atlantic, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement.

This property is located 4 miles west of Pisgah. The parcel is northeast of the Murray Hill Overlook. The moderately-sloping to steep tract is comprised of a mix of cropland, forest land, and grassland. The average Corn Suitability Rating of the crop acres is 36. There are no building improvements. A paved county road will provide access to the parcel.

This parcel will increase the Little Sioux Unit to over 3,470 acres, and will provide wildlife habitat, improve surface water quality, and enhance public recreation to this area. The Forestry Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Acquisition funding will be provided by REAP Open Spaces. Capital Link #62. The Department will seek reimbursement (80%) through federal Transportation Improvement (TI) funds for the Resource Protection in the Loess Hills State Forest Area project. This acquisition will stay on the tax rolls. The Department will pay for a land survey if required, while no fencing cost is anticipated. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Attachment

Linda Hanson, Administrator
Management Services Division
October 11, 2007